

Serial No. 10/716,528
Amdt. dated August 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 15, 2004

Docket No. K-0549

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 16, 26 and 27 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 16, 26 and 27 are amended to correct a typographical error involving their dependencies. Specifically, claim 16 is amended to depend from claim 11. Claims 26 and 27 are amended to depend from claim 21. The amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims.

I. RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Further, in response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicant elects the species of Figures 4 and 5 with traverse for further prosecution on the merits. At least claims 1-10 are readable on the species.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that three species is not an unreasonable number which would impose a serious burden on the office to consider. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP '803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary

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delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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